

of the ulcer where the ether had chiefly fallen, but less so at the other side. This process caused less pain than the application of ice and salt; and M. Matthieu, an instrument maker of Paris, had contrived a means by which it could be more effectually applied than in the above case.—*Med. Times and Gaz.* April 22, 1854.

15. *Modes of Exhibiting Cod-liver Oil.*—Those who have had large experience of the use of cod-liver oil must have been astonished at the surprising way in which, in a great majority of cases requiring its exhibition, it agrees. It is not easy to mark out beforehand any class of symptoms which contra-indicate its employment, if the existence of strumous disease call for it. Often symptoms, apparently the most likely to be aggravated, are removed or mitigated by its use in a way which surprises both patient and prescriber. Thus, in phthisical cases, a red tongue, acid eructations, biliousness, heartburn, liability to sick headaches, aching pain between the scapulæ, an instinctive and intense dislike to fat or greasy aliment, are symptoms which, without a question, may often be remedied by the use of cod-liver oil. These statements are, of course, applicable only to a certain proportion of cases; there are others in which its use is clearly indicated, but in which the prescriber's ingenuity is taxed to the utmost to get the patient to bear the remedy. The following memoranda on this part of the subject, founded on our observations of the practice of the various London hospitals, but more especially of the City Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, may probably be acceptable to some of our readers.

Cases in which difficulty occurs may be divided into the following classes: 1. *Those in which the nauseous taste of the oil forms the obstacle.* In these, the use of the pale oil will generally obviate the difficulty; it is, however, four times the expense of the brown, and is more liable to be adulterated, which are great objections. The taste of the brown oil may often be concealed by taking it floating on some bitter menstruum. A wineglassful of strong coffee, of ginger wine, of infusion of quassia, or, perhaps, best of all, a quinia draught, containing a drachm of the tincture of orange-peel, may serve this purpose. The oil may be stirred up in a little hot milk, and swallowed so warm that the sensation of heat overpowers the taste. Should these expedients fail, the patient may be instructed to put into the mouth a teaspoonful of marmalade or of black currant preserve; and, having well lubricated all parts with the sweetmeat, so as to fully absorb the attention of the gustatory nerve, then swallow the oil. Advantage frequently results from closing the nostrils when taking the dose. 2. *Those in which the oil excites sickness, and is quickly rejected by vomiting.* Many of the expedients mentioned above will obviate also this source of difficulty, more especially the use of bitters. Very few cases, indeed, will resist the influence of hydrocyanic acid and bismuth exhibited three times daily for a few days preparatory to the trial of the oil, and continued during its employment. Patients should be directed to eat a little dry biscuit or bread-crust before the oil, and then to take it floating on a cup of the coldest spring water. If these fail, as a last resource, the dose should be given in the recumbent posture, that is, in the morning, an hour or two before getting up, and in the evening, after going to bed. This last suggestion is one emanating, we believe, from Dr. Birkett, of the City Chest Hospital, and often answers very satisfactorily. 3. *Cases in which the oil cannot be digested.* This is a large and very important class. Patients complain that they have a great repugnance to the oil, that it makes them feel sick for hours afterwards, though seldom causing actual vomiting; that everything they take after it seems to taste of it, and that thus all relish for food is destroyed; that the oil "rises," either oily or with a most nauseous acid flavour. They frequently have bilious attacks; and, for a day or two in each week, probably the repugnance to the remedy is so great that they are quite unable to overcome it. If pushed under these circumstances, the oil does more harm than good; there are, however, extremely few such cases in which careful attention to the digestive organs will not enable its administration to be successfully conducted.

We copy the following formula from the Pharmacopœia of the City Hospital

for Diseases of the Chest, where it is in general use for the relief of the condition alluded to:—

“R. Rad. rhei ℥ijj; rad. zingiberis ℥ij; rad. gentian. ℥iss; sod. carbon. ℥ijj; aquæ pur. ℔viij.”

The roots having been cut into small pieces, the infusion is made with cold water, and, after standing in a cool place for about twelve hours, is strained. The mixture is clear and bright, and not in the least disagreeable to take. In cold weather it keeps well; but in summer the addition of some tincture is necessary to prevent it from becoming thick. If cough be present, it is usual to combine with each dose from half a drachm to a drachm of paregoric; if sickness, from two to three minims of the hydrocyanic acid; and if the signs of atony, a small quantity of the tincture of gentian, calumba, or hop.

By the use of this mild stomachic (a wineglassful thrice daily), for a week or two before commencing the oil, and then continuing it during the exhibition of the latter, many patients have been induced to bear it with advantage, who had failed in other prior attempts to do so. The mixture is so mildly aperient that it almost never purges, and it may be continued for months together with the effect of improving most markedly both the appetite and the digestion. 4. *Cases in which the oil, although taken easily, cannot be borne in full quantity, and does not appear to produce much benefit.* In many cases of phthisis coming under this head, the combination of tonic medication with the use of the oil often answers well. So generally, in fact, is advantage derived from such combination, that at the Hospital for Chest Diseases there are very few patients, indeed, who take the oil alone. In almost all it is exhibited together with either the stomachic mixture above noticed, or some form of tonic. The favourite tonics are the sulphates of quinia and iron (gr. j with gr. ij ter die), or the sesquichloride of iron. The latter is extensively prescribed with the mineral acids in infusion of quassia; or, if the stomach be delicate, in the following more elegant form, which is a prescription of Dr. Risdon Bennett's: R. Tinet. ferri sesquichl. ℥x; acid. nitrici dil. ℥x; syr. zingib. ℥ss; aq. menthæ viridis ℥j. Ft. haust.

Notice has been made repeatedly in our hospital records during the last two years of the practice of combining the use of cod-liver oil with that of mercury, in small doses long continued, which prevails extensively at the Hospital for Skin Diseases, in cases of lupus and cutaneous struma, and at several other institutions, in the treatment of chronic disease of the joints. This kind of treatment is becoming increasingly prevalent, and is certainly very applicable to many forms of strumous inflammation. The plan of giving the oil to counteract the depressing effects of a mercurial course for the cure of syphilis in cachectic states of the constitution, has also been previously mentioned, and is well worthy of being borne in mind.—*Med. Times and Gaz.* May 13, 1854.

16. *Medicinal Constituents of the Lemon.*—Dr. Cogswell read before the Physiological Society (March 13, 1854), a paper on this subject. The author's attention had been drawn to the subject by the publications of Dr. Owen Rees and others, on the treatment of rheumatism by lemon-juice. The remedy was no doubt often successful, but still there were many failures, and these did not seem to be sufficiently accounted for, as had been attempted, by reference to the different forms of the disease. But there was much uncertainty as to what constitutes lemon-juice. Has it always the same composition, or are there not various accidental circumstances attending its preparation calculated to render one specimen different from another. Sometimes the fruit is ordered to be squeezed at home; at other times, the prescription is sent to a druggist, or the juice is allowed to be purchased where it is cheapest. When obtained from the fresh fruit, by depression without removing the rind, it is a turbid, pale yellow fluid, exhaling a grateful odour of the essential oil, and of a specific gravity in different specimens between 1043 and 1047. By distilling a fresh specimen which had not been filtered, the author had obtained half a drachm of essential oil from 12 ounces; but from another, after filtering, only five minims. Some purchased at a fruit-preserver's, which had stood for several months in a cask, and undergone a kind of fermentation, was bright yellow and clear, of density